

**DECLARATION AND RATIFICATION OF LOCAL DISASTER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS
(COVID-19)**

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been recognized globally as a contagious respiratory virus; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to spread and to pose an increasing, imminent threat of disaster throughout **HOCKLEY COUNTY** and beyond; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Honorable Sharla Baldrige as County Judge of **HOCKLEY COUNTY** declared a state of disaster for public health emergency pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, based upon the need for extraordinary measures to contain COVID-19 and to prevent its spread throughout **HOCKLEY COUNTY**; and

WHEREAS, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by United States President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020, call upon Americans to slow the spread of COVID-19 by avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than ten (10) people, using drive-thru, pick-up or delivery options at restaurants and bars, and avoiding visitation at nursing homes, among other steps; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order by the Governor of the State of Texas relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation, as promulgated by Texas Governor Greg Abbott on March 19, 2020, issued certain mandates necessary to more effectively contain the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of **HOCKLEY COUNTY** has determined that additional measures must to taken to further contain COVID-19 and prevent its spread throughout **HOCKLEY COUNTY**; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HOCKLEY COUNTY, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code, a state of disaster for public health emergency is hereby declared, ratified and renewed for **HOCKLEY COUNTY**.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Section 418.108(b) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of disaster for public health emergency shall continue until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, unless continued or renewed by the Commissioners Court of **HOCKLEY COUNTY**.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to Section 418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the County Clerk of **HOCKLEY COUNTY**.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to Section 418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code, this declaration of a state of disaster activates the Hockley County Emergency Management Plan, and authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance under the declaration.

SECTION 5. That this declaration authorizes the County to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress the virus, including the quarantine of persons and occupied structures, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the County, regulating ingress and egress to occupied structures, establishment of quarantine stations, emergency hospitals, and other hospitals, and insuring compliance for those who do not comply with the County's rules and directives.

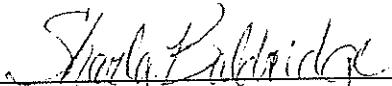
SECTION 6. That this declaration hereby limits the size of gatherings to not more than 10 people and mandates the cancellation of all such gatherings of more than 10 people until further notice. A "gathering" refers generally to a scheduled event or social endeavor where 10 persons are present in a confined space, room, or area.

SECTION 7. In accordance with Texas Government Code §418.173, a person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days.

SECTION 8. That this declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

SECTION 9. This declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency supersedes all previous declarations issued by **HOCKLEY COUNTY** on this matter that are in conflict or inconsistent with its terms. And again, this declaration of a state of disaster for public health emergency shall remain in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, subject to being extended, modified, amended, rescinded or superseded under applicable laws.

SO DECLARED AND ORDERED THE 25TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.



Sharla Baldrige, County Judge
Hockley County, Texas



Curtis Thrash, Commissioner, Prct. 1



Larry Carter, Commissioner, Prct. 2

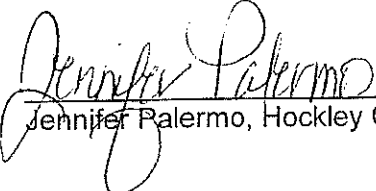


J.L. Barnett, Commissioner, Prct. 3



Tommy Clevenger, Commissioner, Prct. 3

ATTEST:



Jennifer Palermo, Hockley County Clerk